

## The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1886.

## Business Methods in Legislation.

Of 13, 202 bills and resolutions introduced in the United States Senate and House at the last session, 987 were passed. Of those latter 115 were vetoed and one was passed over the veto. 873 bills and resolutions were thus the net result of eight months of "work" by our National Legislature. Add 5,065 reports of Committees, and 9,000 pages of "The Congressional Record" filled, and the sum total of work performed is obtained. The expenses, including pay of Senators and Congressmen, was \$3,310,283.20.

In proportion to the bills introduced the number passed was very small, many of them being the ordinary appropriation bills, and private bills of various sorts whose disposal should have been left to some permanent Court for adjudication and settlement. A large number of private pension bills are also included.

Aside from the Oleomargarine bill, and the "new navy" bill, scarcely any were of national importance. The bill for the improvement of Custom regulations, the fortification bill, the bankruptcy bill and the educational bill failed largely because of lack of time to discuss them. There was no attention given to the improvement of the currency, the bank circulation, the regulation of inter-state commerce, and a thousand other things which should engage the immediate attention of Congress. While the business world suffered in silence, Legislatures discussed politics and the cheap devices to catch votes. In the end a "Steering Committee" was appointed to push through such legislation as was necessary to keep the wheels of government in motion.

In our State Legislature the same difficulty exists, though to a less extent. The State Constitution needs revision; tax laws should be improved and attention should be given to the needs of our growing suburban towns and villages. Are we likely to have anything done? Probably not. A close election will cause difficulty over the choice of United States Senator. Party spirit will run high, and a dead lock may ensue. Temperance Legislation is quite possible if temperance men of all parties would unite. Will they? Probably not. Democratic temperance men will not vote for a settlement of the question, because it may help the Republicans out of their present embarrassment. Prohibitionists will not vote for a settlement, as was shown in the New York Legislature last Winter, because they want to help on their own new party.

But what of township laws, tax laws, and a revision of the Constitution so as to remove some of its most troublesome provisions; cannot these be secured? Probably not: because they are not political questions. Their solution requires time, study, and untiring industry for which there is no adequate reward. So the Legislature will meet, talk politics, patch and patch the present cumbersome and inadequate laws, pass the ordinary appropriations and then adjourn.

There is not a city or township in the State which has not suffered from these disgraceful political methods of legislation. The township is now suffering for the lack of proper laws for the opening, widening, and sanitary control of streets, for the building and cleaning of sidewalks, for the establishment of police regulations and such other matters as ought to be under the immediate control of township officers. No one familiar with such matters but realizes the difficulties against which we struggle, and yet who expects a change? So long as politics is more important than business, this unfortunate condition of affairs will continue. We mention them not that our countryman may be proud of them, but that a home sentiment may demand a return of business methods in our State and National Legislatures.

## The Truth of History:

Before the facts and figures of the late election in this State can be dismissed into history, it seems needful that we should recall one or two points that are of interest to our cranksy friends, the Prohibitionists. They started into the late campaign with the avowed intention of overthrowing the Republican Party. The object of this campaign was to convince Republicans that they could never succeed without having adopted the Prohibition platform. In other words, the Republican Party must surrender itself to the Third Party, if it hoped for future existence. What is the result? The total Prohibition vote in the State is about 17,000—so far behind the other two parties as to make any comparison with these seem absurd. It is not worth while now to consider whether a division of the Prohibition vote would have elected Hovey. We will admit, for the sake of the argument, that the Prohibitionists, knowing that they could not elect Fisk, were indifferent as to the result of the gubernatorial canvass. Next to flailing the Republicans, they wanted a

Legislature to provide temperance legislation. In the last Legislature there were Republicans who voted in favor of submitting a Prohibition amendment to the people, and Republicans who voted against this. Did the Prohibitionists make any discrimination in these cases? Not at all. They never paid the slightest attention to the personal character or record of the Republican nominees. The fact that a candidate was a Republican was sufficient to damn him in the eyes of a Prohibitionist. They put up a third candidate with the deliberate intention of electing the Democratic candidate in that district. In innumerable instances they have succeeded. The result is just what might have been expected. The cause of Temperance has been set back in this State by Prohibition votes.

Here is one striking evidence of this fact: In Morris county, Mr. Jenkins, formerly in the Assembly, was Republican candidate for the Senate. He is a pronounced Temperance man, and when he was in the Assembly he voted for Prohibition. This made him obnoxious to the liquor-selling interest, and the Democrats, being anxious to compass the defeat of every man who could not be relied on to vote for Abbe for United States Senator, used this fact against him. Gottfried Krueger, the wealthy Newark brewer, was induced to send out a confidential circular to his agents and customers in Morris county urging them to use their influence to defeat Jenkins. These saloon-keepers and beer-sellers were significantly informed that it would be for their interest to prevent this "notorious Prohibitionist" from being sent to the Legislature. Whether the Prohibitionists of Morris county were cognizant of the plot to array the saloon interest against the Republican candidate, we do not know. They acted precisely as if they knew and approved the scheme; for they nominated a candidate of their own, instead of voting for Jenkins. As in other similar instances, they joined hands with the saloon interest, and they elected the Democratic candidate, Mr. Werts. Mr. Werts is acceptable to Brewer Krueger and his agents, and we presume is also acceptable to the Prohibitionists of Morris county. At any rate, they have elected him. And, unless the Prohibitionists of Morris county are sudden fillets, they knew they were electing Werts when they voted for Owen.

It is not worth while to thresh this old straw over again. But, as before said, it is only right and fair that the people should be made to understand with clearness how false and hypocritical are the pretensions of the Prohibition leaders and how irresponsible are the rank and file. If these men would be honest and would avow their intention to defeat every measure designed to promote the cause of Temperance and mitigate the evils of rum-selling, one might regard them with at least some degree of respect. But they steal the livery of Heaven to serve the devil. They pray for the coming of the day when the ills of temperance shall be checked; and they vote to elect men who will never consent to the passage of any law that shall hasten that day. Here and there, undoubtedly, may be found men, usually of infirm reasoning powers, who honestly believe that the way to secure Temperance legislation is to defeat Temperance candidates for the Legislature. But we are reluctantly forced to the conviction that a greater part of the Prohibitionists of New Jersey are secretly in league with the anti-Temperance party. It is incredible that intelligent men should so manage their campaign as to defeat Temperance men and elect anti-Temperance men, without realizing the full consequences of their course. Paying no heed to the lying protestations of these hypocrites, the Republican Party must hereafter regard the Prohibitionists of New Jersey as a mere contingent of the Democratic party. With the so-called Third Party, Republicans can have no sympathy, relation, or fellowship. —Daily Advertiser.

It is now in order for the Prohibition leaders of Bloomfield to say what they think of the statement that the race in the last campaign was between the Democrats and Prohibitionists and that votes for Republican candidates would be thrown away.

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